[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

such as *kattippanam*, made in the Council with regard to the administration of the Excise Department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer given to Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's interpellation No. VIII on the same subject at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th July, 1921.

Continuance of Monopoly System in certain Taluks.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to continue the monopoly system for the years 1100 and 1101 in the taluks of Shertallai, Vaikam, Alangad and Parur?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative.

Teachers' Provident Fund.

273. MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the provision of a provident fund for teachers is made compulsory in the case of private schools in the Madras Presidency?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they will also make it compulsory, and not optional, here also?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that the interest fixed is only $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. here? Will they be pleased to take action to raise it?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): With respect to the answer to part (*b*) of my question, may I know why Government cannot make it compulsory?

MR S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Director of Public Instruction is of opinion that the time is not yet ripe for the measure being made compulsory in private schools.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Has he considered the question?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The matter was referred to him and he has considered it.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know, with reference to the answer to part (*c*) of the question, why the Government cannot raise the percentage of interest?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): For financial reasons.

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